

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01685 282057Z

63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

NSCE-00 SSO-00 /081 W

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O R 282038Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5898

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN TD

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: RESTRICTIONS ON EASTERN'S OPERATIONS TO TRINIDAD

REF: MOFFAT/HIGH TELECON; STATE 251515;

1. FOLLOWING OUR LAST VAIN APPEAL TO MINEXTAFF THIS MORNING THAT GOTT PERMIT EASTERN TO CONTINUE SECOND FREQUENCY UNTIL JANUARY 7, GEORGE LYALL (EASTERN VICE PRESIDENT/CARIBBEAN BASED IN PUERTO RICO) DEPARTED SOME HOURS AGO TO BEGIN REROUTING OF ESTIMATED 1,000 AFFECTED PASSENGERS. FLIGHT WILL HENCEFORTH TURN AROUND IN BRIDGETOWN. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THEREFORE APPROACH DESCRIBED REFTEL IS TOO LATE TO EFFECT CHANGE. FURTHER WE BELIEVE LYALL AT LEAST IS CONVINCED EASTERN MISHANDLED ROUTE NOTIFICATION TO GOTT AND SUPPORTS IDEA OF "QUIET DIPLOMACY" BY EASTERN AND USG, ESPECIALLY SINCE EASTERN HOPES TO REINSTATE SECOND FREQUENCY IN THE SPRING.

2. WHAT SEEMS MOST BASIC TO US, HOWEVER, IS THAT GOTT -- READ DR. WILLIAMS AND ALLEYNE -- WOULD LIKELY WELCOME CONSULTATIONS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM IN BELIEF THAT BWIA DESERVES AND WOULD OBTAIN ADDITIONAL RIGHTS IN US. (INDEED ALLEYNE HAS REPEATEDLY MADE POINT TO US THAT BWIA SHOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS.) ALREADY CONVINCED THAT ENERGY CRISIS HAS GIVEN FUEL-RICH T&T HIGH TRUMP CARDS IN AVIATION MATTERS, DR. WILLIAMS IS IN
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01685 282057Z

DO OR DIE MOOD TO PROMOTE BWIA NOT ONLY VIS-A-VIS US AND CANADA

BUT ALSO AS REGIONAL CARRIER. UNLESS WE FOR OUR PURPOSES WANT CONSULTATIONS, I BELIEVE ESSENTIAL VALUE OF OUR APPROACHING GOTT NOW ALONG LINES PARAGRAPH ONE OF REFTTEL IS TO MAKE RECORD CLEAR.

3. I BELIEVE THIS COULD BE DONE MOST CAREFULLY WITH THE FULLEST ROOM FOR SUBSEQUENT MANEUVER IN NOTE SETTING FORTH OUR INTERPRETATION OF GOTT ACTION AS "NOT BEING CONSONANT" (OR SOME SUCH VERBIAGE) WITH AGREEMENT. DEPENDING PERHAPS IN PART ON GOTT REACTION, WE COULD THEN PLOT OUR WAY CAREFULLY TO WHATEVER FURTHER STEPS ARE CALLED FOR.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S REACTION.
MOFFAT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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